

Criteria

1. The activity for which funding is requested must conform to the [moral and social teachings](#) of the Catholic Church.
2. The applicant organization must demonstrate both the intention and capacity to effectively work toward the elimination of the root causes of poverty and to enact institutional change. CCHD defines institutional change as:
 - a. Modification of existing laws and/or policies;
 - b. Establishment of participatory and just social structures and/or redistribution of decision-making powers so that people living in poverty can be involved in policy-making that affects their lives.
3. The organization's efforts must benefit people living in poverty. At least 50 percent of those benefiting from the organization's efforts must be people experiencing poverty.
4. People living in poverty must have the dominant voice in the organization. At least 50 percent of those who plan, implement and make policy, hire and fire staff (e.g., the Board of Directors, etc.) should be persons who are involuntarily poor (clergy, VISTA volunteers, students, etc. are considered by CCHD to be voluntarily poor).
5. The organization should demonstrate ongoing leadership development because it is considered essential to the strength, depth and sustainability of the organization.
6. The organization should demonstrate a clear vision for development of financial capacity that might include membership dues, grassroots fundraising, foundation and/or corporate support.
7. The organization must be fully nonpartisan when engaging in political activities. Organizations engaged in partisan political activity are not eligible.